Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 PM-07 ISO-00 INR-10 L-03 RSC-01 /036 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB:VLTOMSETH:MAC APPROVED BY EA/TB:JBDEXTER PM/SAS:TCOONY

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R 212332Z FEB 74 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

SECRETSTATE 035119

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MASS, TH SUBJECT: O-2A'S

REF: MACTHAI 110348Z FEB 74

- 1. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION WE HAVE RECEIVED HERE, REFTEL ADVISED CINCPAC THAT "SENIOR RTAF OFFICIALS" SHOWED NO INTEREST IN 34 O-2A'S PRESENTLY IN FLYABLE STORAGE AT U-TAPAO WHEN SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE TRANSFER WAS RAISED INFORMALLY WITH THEM. WE HAVE NO INDICATION WHO THESE "SENIOR OFFICIALS" WERE. IN ADDITION, REFTEL RECOMMENDED THAT 0-2A'S BE "RETROGRADED TO OFFSHORE LOCATION, "I.E. REMOVED FROM THAILAND. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT YOU CONCURRED IN THIS RECOMMENDATION.
- 2. YOU MAY NOT YET KNOW THAT THE O-2A'S AT U-TAPAO WILL BE INCLUDED IN A LIST OF ITEMS DOD IS PREPARING WHICH CAN BE LEFT BEHIND FOR TURNOVER TO THE THAI AS US MILITARY UNITS ARE WITHDRAWN. DR KISSINGER IN HIS CAPACITY AS ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS REQUESTED SECDEF TO PREPARE THE LIST LAST NOVEMBER. IT THEREFORE APPEARS TO US THAT THERE MAY BE POLITICAL MILEAGE TO BE GAINED BY SECRET

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DEFERRING ACTION ON THE ULTIMATE DISPOSITION OF THE 0-2A'S

UNTIL SUCH A TIME AS WE CAN MAKE A FORMAL OFFER TO THE RTG. EVEN IF THE O-2A'S ARE TURNED DOWN, WE WILL HAVE BEEN RESPONSIVE TO THE LONG-STANDING THAI REQUEST THAT WE LEAVE AS MUCH

EQUIPMENT BEHIND AS POSSIBLE AS WE REDUCE OUR MILITARY PRESENCE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON THIS MATTER. RUSH

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Message Attributes

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